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OUR EVENING DAILY

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SHAKTI EFFECT

Private bus stand empty

Auto and taxi services also hit

Mysuru, June 12 (RK&BCT)- A day after the State Government rolled out the 'Shakti' scheme that offers free travel across the State for women irrespective of their age and social status, the repercussions are being seen in the private sector with no takers for private buses, autos and cabs.

The Private Bus Stand at Old RMC Yard in Mysuru wore a deserted look this morning. The lives of drivers, conductors, cleaners and agents have come to a standstill and not even a single bus operated in full capacity from the Private Bus Stand.

A few buses that proceeded to various destinations from Mysuru had just a few men in a couple of seats. No woman passenger came to board any of the buses.

RMC Private Bus Stand wears a deserted look with no passengers this morning.

In fact, the repercussions of the scheme on the private buses started yesterday afternoon itself and many drivers and conductors did not even bring their buses to the Bus Stand today, anticipating poor response.

Along with the buses and their operators, the others who were affected included shop-keepers in the Old RMC Yard, hoteliers and tea shop owners, fruit stalls, automobile spare parts shops, tyre and related parts repairers and workers. These outlets would be bustling with buyers on any given day or time.

Over 140 private buses operate from the Old RMC Yard every day and the place is filled with people, especially women. These buses even if they do two trips a day, they cover 280 trips. Today, there were hardly a couple of trips with only male passengers. Those male travellers accompanying women also preferred KSRTC buses along with their companions instead of travelling alone in private buses.

A majority of travellers go to T. Narasipur, Kollegal, Nanjangud, Male Mahadeshwara Hills, Chamarajanagar, Hanur, Yalandur, Malavalli, Hunsur and surrounding areas in private transport.

(See SHAKTI on page 7)

Ashada Friday atop Chamundi Hill

District Minister holds review meeting with officials

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) M. Muthuraj, MLAs K. Harishgowda, T.S. Srivatsa & Tanveer Sait, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. K.V. Rajendra, City Police Commissioner Ramesh Banoth, Superintendent of Police (SP) Seema Latkar, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner G. Lakshmikantha Reddy, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) CEO K.M. Gayathri and other officials seen during the review meeting of officials at the Government Guest House in city this morning.

Mysuru, June 12 (BLU&DM)- With Ashada Month commencing from next week, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa held a meeting with officials on preparations for Ashada Fridays atop Chamundi Hill, at the Government Guest House this morning.

The First Ashada Friday falls on June 23 followed by June 30, July 7 and July 14.

Addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. K.V. Rajendra directed the officials to make appropriate arrangements for vehicle parking at the foot of Chamundi Hill and to ensure free travel in KSRTC buses from the foothill to the Hill temple.

Stressing on the need for making Chamundi Hill plastic-free, he instructed the officials to take measures for stopping people from carrying plastic covers, bags etc., to the Hill Temple. He also instructed for an appropriate system for distribution of Prasada by devotees and to maintain hygiene and cleanliness atop the Hill.

MLA Tanveer Sait wanted the authorities not to distribute passes to devotees on Ashada Fridays as the system had led to much confusion in the past.

(See ASHADA on page 7)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Abracadabra titled ***"MCC's 'Pay and Park' system: Shoppers protest."***

Turn to Page-8 for an article by K.B. Ganapathy titled ***"Memories of Makkaji Chowk: 18 years ago (2005) in*** *Star of Mysore:* ***Mod shopping mall for city under scan."*** **—Ed.**

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 12th June 2023

Mega Udyoga Mela on June 17 by MYCEM

Mysuru, June 12 (PM&TRR)- City-based Mysore College of Engineering and Management (MYCEM) and Lead Training and Corporate Solutions have jointly organised a Mega Udyoga Mela (Job Fair-2023), on June 17 at MYCEM Campus on T. Narasipur road here, said College Principal Dr. M.S. Prabhuswamy.

Addressing presspersons at Patrakarthara Bhavan on Saturday, he said the Udyoga Mela will be held from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm and entry will be free for everyone.

Candidates who have SSLC, PUC, BA, B.Com, BBM, Diploma and any other Degree qualifications may participate in this Mega Udyoga Mela.

More than 35 companies are participating in the Mela to recruit candidates for over 600 job opportunities, disclosed Dr. Prabhuswamy.

Lead Training and Corporate Solutions Chief Executive Officer (CEO) M.R. Srividya said that candidates who wish to participate in the Job Mela must have completed 18 years of age. For more information, contact Mob: 97314-34074 or 97424-72777.

College Placement Officer Prabhu, Professors Dr. Ravi and Shalini were present.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Hatred is a strong word and emotion. It's a feeling that brings along with it other negative emotions like anger, disdain, the urge to hurt and harm, and perhaps vengeance, leaving no room for the positive ones like compassion and empathy.

During a literary criticism class in college, our lecturer emphatically stated that love and hatred are two sides of the same coin, meted out where care and concern are involved. If you care about a person, it matters whether they love or hate you, and it should not matter at all if they don't. A lot worse than hatred is indifference, which hurts more and implies a total lack of care.

Do you hate someone or something? Does it bring out the worst in you? Do you often indulge in being cynical and hurting or putting down someone with harsh words or inexcusable actions? Then, it is time to reflect and get to the root cause of this attitude. Is it your own insecurities, much like the bully who feigns importance and feels good only by belittling someone who is weaker, vulnerable and an easy target? Or is it bias or prejudice that is usually baseless and irrational?

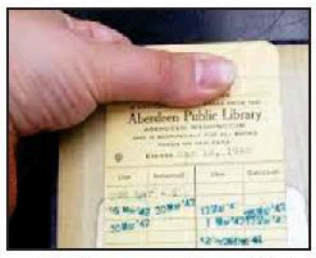
History reminds us of the extremities of hatred practised by Hitler with his atrocities and so it needs to be nipped in the bud before it consumes all reason, compassion and kindness.

Sometimes worldly, philosophical wisdom comes from the most unlikely and unexpected quarters; like a main character in a popular sitcom rightly pointed out, "The least lovable are perhaps the least loved, or one can give only what one has or has received." Your object of hatred will probably be worthy of affection only when and if you can send a lot of love their way. Think about it!

— Radhika D. Shyam in Deccan Herald

NEWS SPARKLERS

Book returned to library after 81 years



Washington: Staff at a Washington library were in for a surprise when a book returned to the facility turned out to be 81 years overdue.

The Timberland Regional Library said librarians at the Aberdeen Timberland Library received a copy of The Bounty Trilogy by Charles Nordhoff and James Norman Hall this week and the card inside the cover revealed it had been due back March 30, 1942.

The person who returned the book explained it had recently been found in a family storage unit.

Librarians were amused to learn the patron who checked the book out had written a review on the inside cover: "I wouldn't read this book if I was paid to."

Pet cat celebrates 32nd birthday

Norwich: A pet celebrating her 32nd birthday Thursday in Britain might be the oldest living cat in the world.

Lila Brissett, 71, of Norwich, England, said her cat, Rosie, was born June 1, 1991, and is celebrating her 32nd birthday Thursday with a salmon cake prepared by a local cat cafe owner.

Brissett adopted Rosie when she was only a kitten and said the feline has only been to the vet twice -- once to be spayed in 1991, and a second time about five years ago to be treated for a cyst.

Brissett said she has been in touch with Guinness World Records about having Rosie certified as the oldest cat living. The current record holder, a fellow England resident named Flossie, was 26 years and 316 days old when she was certified in November 2022.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Diabetic patients may not have classical symptoms of heart attack. Hence, should be monitored closely.

By Dr. Bipin Chandra Aditya Dasari - Consultant – Cardiology – Interventional
Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

CFTRI celebrates World Food Safety Day-2023

Mysuru, June 12- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation) and WHO (World Health Organisation) have declared June 7 as World Food Safety Day-2023 with a tagline, "Food Standards Save Lives" to create awareness among population on food safety, food-borne diseases such as diarrhoea to cancers and deaths due to unsafe food.

Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India celebrated the event in its campus.

Dr. Navin Kumar Rastogi, Chief Scientist & Director-in Charge, CSIR-CFTRI, formally inaugurated the event and spoke on the importance and awareness on World Food Safety Day, its significance and its benefits to the society.

Arrangements were made in the Department of Food Safety and Analytical Quality Control Laboratory of CSIR-CFTRI to celebrate the Day. Scientists, Technologists, Scholars and Research Students organised demonstration on detection of adulterants in edible oils, spice products, sweets, milk, honey etc. Use of analytical instruments used by food safety labs such as EA-IRMS, LC-MS/MS, GC, HPLC, GC-MS/MS, ICP-AES were exhibited.

Demonstration on food hygiene and microbial safety was also arranged. Posters on food regulation, food labelling and nutritional labelling, Food addition and contaminants too were exhibited. More than 150 students from various Colleges including students from St. Philomena's College, JSS College and Jnanodaya PU College participated.

REALLY...?

- *The owl monkey's more enduring moniker is the "night monkey."*
- *Monkeys and apes are not the same but are related.*
- *To interact with one another, monkeys engage in grooming rituals.*
- *Monkeys as pets are popular exotic animals.*
- *All monkeys have opposable thumbs.*
- *The common cold does not affect monkeys.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher to a student: *"One day our country will be corruption free," which tense is this?*
Student: *Future impossible tense !!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= **Rs. 82.42**
1 UK Pound	= **Rs. 103.63**
1 UAE Dirham	= **Rs. 22.44**
1 Euro	= **Rs. 88.53**

VOICE OF THE READER

Reckless driving major cause of deaths on Expressway

Urgent action needed by Government in consultation with NHAI

Sir,

The news of 55 lives lost in 570 accidents over a five-month period on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway is deeply unsettling and raises significant concerns ***(55 killed in five months in accidents on Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway,*** *SOM* dated June 9).

According to the report, 52 individuals suffered serious injuries, while 184 experienced fractures and 279 sustained minor injuries. The report also attributes these fatal accidents to unscientific construction, incorrect alignment at certain stretches of the Expressway and negligent driving, which has been a major contributing factor.

Regarding the claims of 'unscientific construction' and 'incorrect alignment,' I find it hard to reconcile with my own experience of travelling on the Expressway. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been responsible for constructing numerous highways across the country, ensuring alignment and scientific construction that adhere to various geometric requirements.

However, the more pressing issue lies in the prevalence of reckless driving and driving under the influence of alcohol, which are significant causes of accidents. The preservation of precious lives must be our utmost priority and no effort should be spared in achieving this goal.

Despite the speed limit being set at 100 km/hour, drivers often exceed it, reaching speeds of 120-140 km/hour, which essentially amounts to courting disaster.

To address this issue, it is imperative to employ a combination of speed-calming measures. Installing overspeed detection mechanisms at suitable locations, establishing frequent Traffic Police check-posts to apprehend errant drivers, displaying effective signage with impactful messages and implementing rumble strips to warn against over-speeding are just a few potential strategies.

I sincerely hope that the Government, in consultation with NHAI authorities, will take swift and appropriate action to rectify this situation. It is vital that we prioritise the safety of all those who utilise the Expressway.

—H.R. Bapu Satyanarayana,
Retired Chief Engineer

Saraswathipuram 10.6.2023

Muslim Co-operative Bank fetes Sait

The Managing Committee Members of century-old Muslim Co-operative Bank Limited felicitated 6-time MLA from NR Constituency Tanveer Sait at his residence in Udayagiri this morning. The newly elected MLA is seen with Bank President Dr. Abdul Ravoof, Vice-President Ahmed Saleem Ahmed, K.C. Shoukath Pasha, Rahmathulla Shariff, Mohammed Abdus Salam, Ifthekhar Ahmed Khan, Mir Muttaqi Ali and Dr. Surraya Tarannum (all Directors). On the occasion, Sait gave some good advice for overall development of the Bank.

Expo of Designer Sarees

A day-long expo of Varastraa's extraordinary saree collections, organised by Impressionz, was inaugurated by Rashmi Ravindra and Rashmi Suresh at Hotel Southern Star's Boardroom in city this morning. Seen are *(from left)* ***Varastraa Founder-Designer Seema Haydon, Rashmi Ravindra (chief guest), Impressionz Organiser Krupa Sumanth and Rashmi Suresh (chief guest). The expo will be open for visitors till 8 pm.***

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NEWS BRIEFS

Lateral entry to Diploma courses

The Government CPC Polytechnic in city has invited applications from Second PUC (Science) /ITI passed students for Lateral Entry to second year Diploma courses (2023-24). The last date for applying is June 20 (before 5.30 pm). For details, log on to the website: ***https://dtek.karnataka.gov.in,*** according to the Govt. CPC Polytechnic Principal.

Blood donation camp at Suyog

As part of World Blood Donor Day celebrations, Suyog Hospital, Ramakrishnanagar, has organised a blood donation camp at its premises on June 14 at 10.30 am. Krishnaraja MLA T.S. Srivatsa will inaugurate the camp. Suyog Hospital Chairman Dr. S.P. Yoganna will preside. K.R. Hospital Blood Bank Officer Dr. Manjunath will deliver a lecture on 'Importance of Blood Donation.' For registration, contact Ph: 0821-2533600 or Mob: 99863-99862, according to Suyog Hospital General Manager P.J. Arun Kumar.

Ph.D awardee

Y. Uday has been awarded Ph.D in Education by the University of Mysore (UoM) for his thesis 'Effectiveness of Genre Based Approach on Communicative Competence and Creative Writing Skills in English among Secondary School Students' submitted under the guidance of Dr. G. Viswanathappa.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM

Maximum	:	124.80	feet
Today	:	83.02	feet
Yesterday	:	82.96	feet
Inflow	:	786	cusecs
Outflow	:	357	cusecs

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2,249.81	feet
Inflow	:	97	cusecs
Outflow	:	500	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,818.88	feet
Inflow	:	115	cusecs
Outflow	:	80	cusecs

Transport Dept. cracks whip to prevent accidents in T.N. Pur, seizes vehicles

The RTO team formed to ensure road safety. *Picture right:* ***Car and bus that was involved in fatal accident on T. Narasipur Road on May 29.***

T. Narasipur, June 12 (TRR)- Mysuru Division Joint Transport Commissioner Dr. C.T. Murthy has said that in the wake of increased accidents in T. Narasipur town, the Regional Transport Department (RTO) had formed two teams to ensure road safety. During their operation, the officials have seized more than 20 autos for traffic rules violations and four buses for not having Fitness Certificate (FC). The owners of these vehicles have been fined, added Dr. Murthy.

Dr. Murthy said that following the fatal accident between a private bus and a Innova vehicle at Kurubur junction on National Highway (NH)-766 on T. Narasipur Road, in which 11 people were killed on May 29, the team of officials visited T. Narasipur and conducted checking for overloading, vehicles plying without permits and drivers driving vehicles without having a valid Driver's License (DL) etc. and fined the drivers and owners of such vehicles.

The District Police, in their report to the authorities, have suggested the junction as an accident black spot. It is learnt that as many as 8 fatal and 8 non-fatal accidents had taken place in five months this year.

A team of officials from various Government Departments have given a report highlighting precautionary measures to be taken to prevent further accidents.

Dr. Murthy said that the Transport Department officials will carry similar operation every week across the taluk and create awareness about road safety. He also assured that the Department will take necessary steps to prevent road accidents. There are a few 'S' type bends in the Highway and we are making efforts to change them, said Dr. Murthy and advised two-wheeler riders to wear helmets, follow rules and not to overtake vehicles at curves.

Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) L. Deepak, Bheemanagowda, Shafiuddin Khan, Circle Inspector Mahesh and staff Siddaraju, Nagaraju, Hemanth Gowda and others were present.

Car hits road divider on Mysuru-B'luru Expressway

One killed, three injured

Ramanagar, June 12- One person was killed while three others sustained serious injuries when the car in which they were travelling hit the road divider in front of Chamundeshwari Hospital, near Koluru Gate in Channapatna taluk on Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway yesterday.

The deceased has been identified as Manjesh (28), the driver of the car and a native of Maddur.

The three injured persons have been admitted to Chamundeshwari Hospital. The Tata Indica car was coming from Mysuru side, when Manjesh lost control of the vehicle, which hit the road divider. Due to the impact, the car has been badly damaged and the accident resulted in traffic jam on the Expressway.

Channapatna Rural Police visited the spot and a case has been registered at Channapatna Traffic Police Station.

GP Member dies in bus-car collision near Hunsur

The ill-fated KSRTC bus and the car that met with an accident on NH-275 close to Bannikuppe in Hunsur last evening.

Bhaskar

Hunsur, June 12- A Gram Panchayat (GP) Member was killed on-the-spot while his mother and wife sustained serious injuries, in a collision between a KSRTC bus and the car near Madhugiri Koppal on National Highway (NH)-275 close to Bannikuppe in the taluk yesterday evening.

The deceased is Bhaskar (42), a resident of Nilavagilu village in the taluk, who was Tattekere GP Member. His wife Ramya has sustained injuries on her head and neck while his mother Savithramma has suffered serious injuries and both have been admitted to a hospital in Mysuru. Luckily, Bhaskar's two children have escaped unhurt.

Yesterday, Bhaskar, along with his mother, wife and two children had gone to attend a function at Bilikere Hosuru Maramma Temple in their car (KA-12-Z-3089) and were on their way back to their village.

When they were proceeding on NH-275, a KSRTC bus which was proceeding towards Mysuru rammed into the car near Madhugiri Koppal village, killing Bhaskar on-the-spot and injuring his mother and wife.

Bilikere Sub-Inspector Chinnaswamy, who has registered a case, is investigating.

Son killed in road accident, ailing mother dies at hospital

Napoklu, June 12- A 19-year-old youth who was on his way to visit his ailing mother was killed in a road accident on Friday while the woman breathed her last at a hospital yesterday.

While deceased youth is Appaji, his mother, who died at the hospital, is Kamala (50), wife of late Raju and a resident of Indiranagar here.

Kamala, who was suffering from illness, was admitted to the District Hospital and her son Appaji, who was on his way to the District Hospital to see his ailing mother was proceeding on Moornad Main Road on his two-wheeler on Friday, when his two-wheeler collided with a car at the Hodawada village curve, killing Appaji.

Appaji & his mother Kamala

But his mother, who did not respond to the treatment, succumbed to illness on Sunday.

Last rites were held at Madikeri Burial Grounds.

Power tariff was hiked during previous BJP Government: CM

Mysuru, June 12 (MTY&TRR)- Chief Minister Siddharamaiah has clarified that the decision to hike the power tariff was taken by the previous BJP Government and the new rates have come into force now, after the elections. "But the BJP is resorting to cheap politics by alleging that the Congress Government had increased the power tariff soon after coming to power," claimed Siddharamaiah.

Siddharamaiah

Clarifying about power tariff hike to the media at Suttur Helipad, on Saturday, the CM said: "The decision to raise power tariff was taken sometime during March-April, 2023. It was not implemented as it was election time and the Poll Code of Conduct was in force. We came to power only about three weeks ago. It was the BJP Government which is responsible for increase in power tariff," added the CM.

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) revises power tariff every year. Their recommendations have been accepted by the BJP Government and they wanted to implement it from June 1 as there was a poll code of conduct then. But to cover up their mistakes, BJP leaders are making allegations against the Congress Government. People of the State are not going to believe their statements, Siddharamaiah said.

PSI scam

Reacting to the statement of former BJP Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary, who had asked the State Government to probe into the allegations of PSI recruitment scam and 40% commission, CM Siddharamaiah said that they need not act as per the wishes of BJP leaders.

"Based on the availability of evidence we will definitely probe. PSI scam is already being investigated and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Amrit Paul is already in jail and investigation is on with regard to the involvement of others in the scam," said the CM.

The Chief Minister also said that he has asked Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda to collect information about the alleged nepotism by the previous BJP Government with respect to allotment of Government lands.

"We will demand our State's legitimate share from the Union Government and make sincere attempts to get them," concluded CM.

'After Devaraj Urs, your Siddharamaiah has become CM for second time'

"D. Devaraj Urs had successfully completed five years as the CM of Karnataka. Apart from him, it was your Siddharamaiah who has completed five years as Chief Minister (CM) of the State. In addition, Devaraj Urs was elected from Mysuru district and became CM of the State twice. Now, your Siddharamaiah has become the CM for the second time," said CM Siddharamaiah at Suttur on Saturday.

Youth held for killing grandma and burning the body

Mysuru, June 12 (BS)- Yelwal Police have cracked the murder mystery behind a charred body that was found in a pit near Hosakote in KRS Backwaters recently, by arresting the grandson of the victim.

The murdered woman has been identified as Sulochana (75) of Gayathripuram in Mysuru and the accused is Supreeth, aged 23 years.

On May 31, Yelwal Police had found a partially burnt body of a woman in the pit near KRS Backwaters. The investigators had picked up Supreeth for questioning, when the murder mystery came to light.

Supreeth has reportedly told the Police: "My grandmother was always scolding and so I killed her." After murdering her, he had reportedly packed the body in a plastic gunny bag and kept it in a cardboard box and transported in the car to the pit near KRS Backwaters, where he set it on fire. Interestingly, Supreeth had driven to the Police Station in the car with his grandmother's body inside, when he lodged a missing complaint.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Seema Latkar has lauded Circle Police Inspector (CPI) G. Swarna and team for cracking the case.

Rs. 1.10 lakh stolen from car at Saraswathipuram

Mysuru, June 12 (BS)- Thieves have made away with Rs. 1.10 lakh kept in the dashboard of a car at Saraswathipuram in the city.

Harirao Mane, aged 63 years and resident of Vidyaranyapuram here, had kept the cash in the dashboard of his car, after drawing the money from Karnataka Bank, Chamundipuram branch, in city on June 6 at around 11 am.

He had been to Saraswathipuram, where he parked the car in front of a construction firm on fourth cross of the locality at around 11.20 am.

He went to Karnataka Bank, Saraswathipuram branch and returned to his car around 11.45 am, when he found that the glass of the left side window of the car had been broke open and the cash was missing from the dashboard.

Saraswathipuram Police are investigating the case.

Autorickshaw Union expresses concern

Mysuru, June 12- With the Government rolling out free travel for women in KSRTC buses, Mysuru Autorickshaw Service Trust, Ittigegud, has expressed concern that the free travel will severely hurt the income of auto drivers.

In a press release, Trust President B. Nagaraj said, free travel will result in women passenger loss to autos, which in turn will severely hurt the earnings of auto drivers. Free bus travel has created a sense of insecurity for auto drivers, he said adding the Government is to be squarely blamed for any loss of revenues to auto drivers. Govt. should come up with a financial package that provides a sense of security to auto drivers, he said.

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Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

MCC's 'Pay and Park' system

Shoppers protest; No way to ease pressure on parking space

The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Council with 65 Corporators whom we unfortunately call as City Fathers have taken a decision on June 9, 2023 to introduce a 'Pay and Park' system on six important roads of the business hubs of our city in downtown area and also at Town Hall open space. The roads are: D. Devaraj Urs Road, Sayyaji Rao Road, Ashoka Road, Vinoba Road (Shivarampet Road), Sri Harsha Road, Dhanvantri Road and Town Hall premises.

A view of vehicles parked on D. Devaraj Urs Road this noon.

It is not known what prompted these Corporators to pass the resolution (decision) in spite of the fact that in the past such attempts had failed for reasons of lack of political will and protest by the general public led by various organisations. At that time it was alleged that the move was made by the association of shopkeepers, who were exempted from paying the parking fee for parking their vehicles while their customers were made to pay the fee. There were also some technical glitches in the operational system of the meters to calculate the time etc.

Interestingly, the Council also resolved to invite tenders to select the agencies which will operate the Pay and Park system.

If the citizens of the city have any lesson to learn from the kind of decisions taken by the MCC Council, they need not do any research. The greatest blunder in taking decisions about matters that concern the interest of the public was the infamous decision taken by the MCC way back in 2005-2006 regarding Makkaji Chowk. Leasing it out to a private firm for a song and which is still making news — bad news. The latest news is about the Court order that forced the MCC to remove the barricades and fence that was put up to block the road from Gandhi Square to Sayyaji Rao Road. Thanks to the Mysuru Rakshana Vedike which took the MCC to Court.

Be that as it may, now once again the MCC Council has taken another infamous decision to solve the parking problem in the downtown area of our city where all the shops and commercial activities are taking place. Once again the Mysuru Rakshana Vedike has opposed this decision and asked the MCC not to implement the 'Pay and Park' system *(see report on page 9)*. According to them, there was no need to introduce the 'Pay and Park' system in our city in the areas and roads identified by the MCC.

The Mysuru Rakshana Vedike, in its yesterday's meeting, said there is already a multi-level parking area under construction in the Town Hall premises. If the work is completed, it has the facility to park 600 cars. There are also two more places available to provide parking space. One is the massive cellar of the Ambedkar Bhavan near D. Devaraj Urs Road where the management of Ambedkar Bhavan might be approached by the MCC to provide parking as per the negotiated terms and conditions.

There is also Gaadi Chowk area which can also be negotiated by the MCC for parking purpose.

In the meanwhile, the Devaraja Mohalla residents held a protest demonstration against the MCC stating that the proposed 'Pay and Park' system is unscientific. Addressing the protestors, the social activist and former MCC Corporator Nagabhushan said that the hurriedly taken decision by the MCC regarding the 'Pay and Park' system will not only be a heavy burden to the shoppers but also a cause for inconvenience. He demanded that the MCC abandon this anti-people decision. He also said that this decision was taken without the knowledge of the local MLAs. He said that the decision was taken to please the shop-owners and to make the parking suitable for their business which will help increase the footfalls.

Nagabhushan made another pertinent point when he said that if the 'Pay and Park' system is introduced, there was bound to be heavy pressure for free parking space on all roads parallel and perpendicular to Devaraj Urs Road and other roads where the system is proposed to be introduced. This would cause not only traffic jam but also inconvenience to shopkeepers and residents of these roads.

All said and done, the reason for creating this kind of crisis situation with regard to lack of parking space is due to the wrong decisions taken by the MCC Council and the counternance (for whatever reason, you guessed it) the Government gave to the MCC Council.

Personally speaking, I remember many years ago, I and some senior citizens of Mysuru, among them some politicians too, were invited for a meeting by the Deputy Commissioner at his Office to discuss about the problem of parking vehicles on Devaraj Urs Road. The very next day, I got a call from the DC's Office saying that the meeting was cancelled.

After dodging my question for the reason of cancelling, the answer I got was rather surprising. The meeting was to discuss about availing the vacant lands around Devaraj Urs Road for parking purpose.

While these are the difficulties that any Municipality or Corporation could definitely face in a democracy, where decisions are taken collectively, the vested interest is bound to play a negative role. The MCC had many opportunities to solve this problem in the past but it did not have the wisdom nor the vision to do greater good to the greater number of people. Like for example, when it took a decision regarding the 4.19 acre of land in Makkaji Chowk.

But let bygones be bygones. No point in crying over spilt milk. We are lucky to have the Town Hall premises where a Rs. 19 crore project was conceived and launched some time in 2010-2011 under the JnNURM project of the Central Government. The money was simply waiting to be utilised for Urban Development. And providing parking space for ever growing city like Mysuru was one of the important urban development projects.

The project which was launched during 2010-2011 had envisaged the area to the right of the Town Hall to be developed with an underground parking lot in two levels and one parking lot above ground to provide parking for 600 cars.

According to former MCC Commissioner Dr. C.G. Betsurmath (2014-2016) in order to facilitate easy entry and exit of these vehicles, an exit road was also planned via Makkaji Chowk. The principal contractor was a Hyderabad party, who failed to fulfil the terms and conditions of the contract which led the MCC to hire a local contractor to complete the pending works. Unfortunately, the Hyderabad contractor went to the Court and got a stay. Dr. Betsurmath says that while he was the Commissioner, this work was underway and had even brought CM Siddharamaiah and District Minister V. Sreenivasa Prasad to the work spot to show them the project. However, work on this project came to a standstill for reasons mentioned above while Dr. Betsurmath got busy with two legacies that he left behind while laying down the office as MCC Commissioner — **1.** Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Statue at Hardinge Circle and **2.** R.K. Narayan Museum in Yadavagiri.

It is unfortunate for our city that neither the Deputy Commissioners nor the MCC Commissioners in Office took this project forward after Dr. Betsurmath. I am sure much of the Sayyaji Rao Road and D. Devaraj Urs Road parking would have been solved with this project. Incidentally, this JnNURM project which is now 12-year-old is a comprehensive one that included one open air theatre and a well laid out garden.

All things considered, the MCC Council may in its wisdom reconsider its decision and annul the 'Pay and Park' system and pass another people-friendly resolution, or call it shopper-friendly resolution, to complete the unfinished Town Hall Multi-Level Parking Project.

e-mail
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Entrepreneurs show interest to start businesses in UAE

High-level UAE delegation in city to attract companies from Mysuru to Hamriyah Free Zone

Mysuru, June 12 (RK&BCT)- The Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), in association with Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Government of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), organised a one-on-one meeting — 'Expanding your Business Globally through UAE' — with senior officials from Hamriyah Free Zone in UAE in the citythis morning.

The meetings, organised at Fortune J.P. Palace on Abba Road, will continue till tomorrow where industrialists, exporters, entrepreneurs from the Mysuru region are gleaning information from the representatives from the Government of Sharjah on setting up and expanding operations in Sharjah and later onto foreign markets.

Mysore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President K.B. Lingaraju and other office-bearers interacting with the delegation from the Government of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (UAE), at a session on 'Expanding your Business Globally through UAE' in city this morning.

The delegation from the Government of Sharjah comprised Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Executive Director of Commercial Affairs, Muhamed Basheer, Head of Overseas Promotion, Geomon George, Head of Business Development, Irfan Alam, Deputy Director and senior officials from Hamriyah Free Zone. Over 50 industrialists, exporters and entrepreneurs from the Mysuru region are attending the meetings.

The main agenda of the meetings is to spread awareness about how companies from Mysuru can expand their operations into foreign markets through establishing branches and subsidiaries using UAE as base to enter and capture markets in other Gulf countries, Africa, Europe, etc.

Established in 1995 by Emiri Decree, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority offers economically viable incorporation services including modern infrastructure, logistics, investor connectivity and critical operations support for its investors.

The delegation showcased facilities and services, positioning Sharjah as an attractive investment destination. The team also provided insights into the current trends and dynamics of the global industry for prospective investors.

Irfan Alam told the local industrialists that the UAE has been an attractive destination for entrepreneurs the world over because of a well-developed and diversified economy, excellent infrastructure and transport links and a unique low tax regime.

"In addition, we offer Free Trade Zones that are like Special Economic Zones in India and in UAE, they are economic areas where goods and services can be traded. Free Trade Zones attract 0 percent tax and there is 100 percent ownership, preferential customs duty rates and 100 percent import and export tax exemption," he added.

He assured the Mysuru industrialists of providing land on lease in UAE to set up businesses and provide facilities like infrastructure, supply chain, subsidies, marketing, exports through ports and airports, maximum connectivity across the world and within UAE. "Already, UAE has 30 to 35 percent Indians doing business and also working in various sectors," Irfan Alam said.

Businesses, setting up shop at Hamriyah Free Zone, can get trading licences within 24 hours and the cost of office space is less than Rs. 3 lakh annually including company registration charges and trading licence.

MCCI President K.B. Lingaraju, Hon. Secretary A.K. Shivaji Rao, Vice-President R. Anand, Hon. Treasurer S.J. Ashok, Hon. Joint Secretary Vinod Jain and others were present.

Congress Government has fulfilled its pre-poll promises: Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa

Mysuru, June 12 (DM & BLU)- Speaking to press persons ahead of the meeting at Government Guest House today, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa said that the Congress Government had taken the first step in the implementation of the Congress party's five pre-poll promises with the launching of 'Shakti' scheme which allows free travel for women in public transport buses yesterday.

Pointing out that an estimated 51 lakh people of the State are inter-State travellers, he said that the free bus travel for women would cost the Government Rs. 4,050 crore annually. Maintaining that the 'Shakti' scheme is highly beneficial for women, he said that women who save money on bus fares, can now spend it for other useful purposes.

Asserting that the Congress is committed to women empowerment and welfare and the introduction of women centric schemes is a step in this direction, he contended that these schemes are not vote bank politics, but a welfare measure for real.

Accusing the Opposition parties of targeting the Government over freebies, Dr. Mahadevappa said that beneficiary women have given no room for Opposition parties to target the Congress Government, as they are pleased with the Government's schemes.

The Opposition BJP cannot suppress the truth and spread its lies and false narratives regarding the promptness and fairness of the Congress Government, he added.

He further said that the 'Shakti' scheme was introduced without taking private buses and autos into consideration, he contended that the scheme would pose no problem for local travellers.

MLA Tanveer Sait expresses concern over polluted water entering river beds

Mysuru, June 12 (DM & BLU)- At District Minister's meeting with officials, Narasimharaja (NR) MLA Tanveer Sait expressed concern over polluted water of the city entering river beds.

Stopping the MCC Commissioner G. Lakshmikantha Reddy, who came forward to give an explanation saying that he has over 30 years of experience on the issue, Sait said that the MCC must take urgent measures for preventing polluted /contaminated water from entering river beds as it will pose a health hazard.

District Minister Dr. Mahadevappa asked the officials to work in accordance with Government guidelines and Rules & Regulations without any laxity or lethargy.

Pointing out that the Government has planned to introduce its ambitious 'Anna Bhagya' Scheme (10 kg rice per person in a BPL family) in July, one of the five pre-poll guarantees of the Congress, he instructed the officials to make all preparations for the scheme which is set to be launched by the CM in Mysuru.

Ashada Friday

(Continued from page 1)

Chamundi Hill Temple Chief Priest Dr. Shashishekar Dixit said that Ashada Fridays will be celebrated atop the Hill Temple in keeping with past traditions and practices.

Coming out in support of MLA Tanveer Sait who has opposed issuance of passes, Dixit said that doing away with passes would be a good measure.

Suggesting separate lines for devotees and VIPs visiting the Hill Temple on Ashada Fridays as it will leave little scope for confusions, he said that the first Ashada Friday falls on June 23. Goddess Chamundeshwari Vardhanti will take place atop the Hill on July 14, he added.

Shakti effect: Private bus stand empty

'We have to sell our buses ultimately'

People or no people, we have to pay taxes, permit fees and at the same time maintain and run the buses. We have to pay salaries and commissions too. This Government scheme has ruined our lives though it is benefitting women. The Government should have adopted a win-win formula for both women and private operators while launching such schemes instead of targeting us. Henceforth travel in private buses will be a thing of the past and we will be forced to sell our buses to KSRTC.

—Shivalingegowda, President, Private Bus Owners Association

Usually, private buses cover over 300 routes and today, there were hardly a few routes since morning. Along with drivers, there are conductors, cleaners and agents who depend on private buses. In Mysuru, there are over 1,000 people and their families who are dependent on private bus service. All of them are affected.

—Siddappa, Private Bus Agents Association President

(Continued from page 1)

The buses are usually packed with people and articles. Today, however, the scene was different. Usually, all the private buses stop at Hardinge Circle and Siddappa Square to pick up passengers. Today, however, no one boarded the buses from the two stops.

Free, free, free calls with loudspeakers

Interestingly, at the Male Mahadeshwara Hills today, the KSRTC drivers and conductors were making announcements on loudspeakers saying "free, free, free travel for women" attracting the female crowd in large numbers. The KSRTC has been asked by the Government to maximise the number of free tickets so that the Government reimburses the money.

Sources told *Star of Mysore* that none of the State Road Transport Corporation will face the loss if free tickets or zero tickets are issued as the Government will reimburse the money. So the more free tickets, the more reimbursement.

Along with the private buses, autos and cabs too faced dearth of passengers today as all women preferred free travel instead of paying money. "I got no passengers today and usually, many women opt for autos to reach shorter distances. If the same situation continues, our families will die of hunger. If there is no income, how will I pay the owner of this auto and at the same time feed my family," asked Nagaraju, an auto driver from Ashokapuram.

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Memories of Makkaji Chowk: 18 years ago (2005) in *Star of Mysore*

Mod shopping mall for city under scan

By K.B. Ganapathy

Mysore, Nov. 10- The Mysore City Corporation with 65 members in its Council passed a very important resolution last month on 10.10.2005 on the subject No. 164, with financial implications running into more than many crores of rupees every year.

The resolution pertains to the proposed commercial complex in the heart of the city adjacent to K.R. Circle, known as Makkaji Chowk with a land extent of 4.19 acres.

The General Council of the Mysore Mahanagara Palike (Mysore City Corporation - MCC), resolved on 10.10.2005, to lease the Makkaji Chowk land to **Maverick Holdings and Investment Pvt. Ltd., (promoters of Garuda Shopping Mall in Bangalore)** for 40 years, on a quarterly payment of rent of Rs. 75,37,500 (Rupees seventy five lakh thirty seven thousand five hundred only) with an increase of three percent annually.

This is to enable the said company to put up a commercial complex and manage it on the basis of BOOT — Build, Own, Operate and Transfer. That means the MCC will get its premier, most valuable property of the city back to its ownership after 40 years, **hopefully.** And knowing what happens to all the leased property, specially of the Government and quasi Government bodies, this Makkaji Chowk land of our City Corporation and property would be lost forever and most of us who are witness to this lease **(more appropriately a deal)** may not be here to see, what happens after 40 years.

Surprisingly, neither the social activists nor the NGOs have taken objection to the resolution dated 10.10.2005 passed on subject No. 164.

It is quite pertinent so recall here that the MUDA had auctioned just this year, on August 18, 2005, a commercial site measuring 5.3 acres for Rs. 20,52,99,999 (Rupees twenty crore fifty two lakh ninety nine thousand, nine hundred ninety nine) at an open auction about 4 kms away from Makkaji Chowk near the Race Course. Compared to that, the price of the land measuring 4.10 acres of Makkaji Chowk should he manifold and it is left to anybody's imagination. According to a land developer, even at a conservative estimate of Rs. 4,000 per sq.ft, the 4 acres 19 guntas at Makkaji Chowk would be valued at Rs. 73,74,40,000 (Rupees seventy three core seventy four lakh forty thousand). **However, it is said, in the open market, if auctioned, it will fetch about Rs. 200 crore TODAY.**

A model of the Garuda Shopping Mall. *(As given to press in 2005)*

Now compare this with the income MCC will get as a result of the MCC Council meeting resolution dated 10.10.2005. By the purported lease, the income that would be generated per year by the MCC is a mere pittance of Rs. 3,01,50,000 (Rupees three crore, one lakh, fifty thousand only) and **for 40 years** of the lease period it would be about Rs. 120 crores.

Well, the question is, why did the general body of MCC Council agree to give the land on lease for 40 years and for such a small quarterly rent? Lack of vision? Lack of business sense? Lack of concern for the finances of MCC? Lack of love for our city and its voters? Or was it just a *faux pas***?**

Is it not in the interest of the Corporation and in turn the 10 lakh people of the city to auction this land and thereafter derive recurring income year after year for all time to come by way of tax on the capital value of the property, which will be over Rs. 5 crores per year, after the purchaser builds the building?

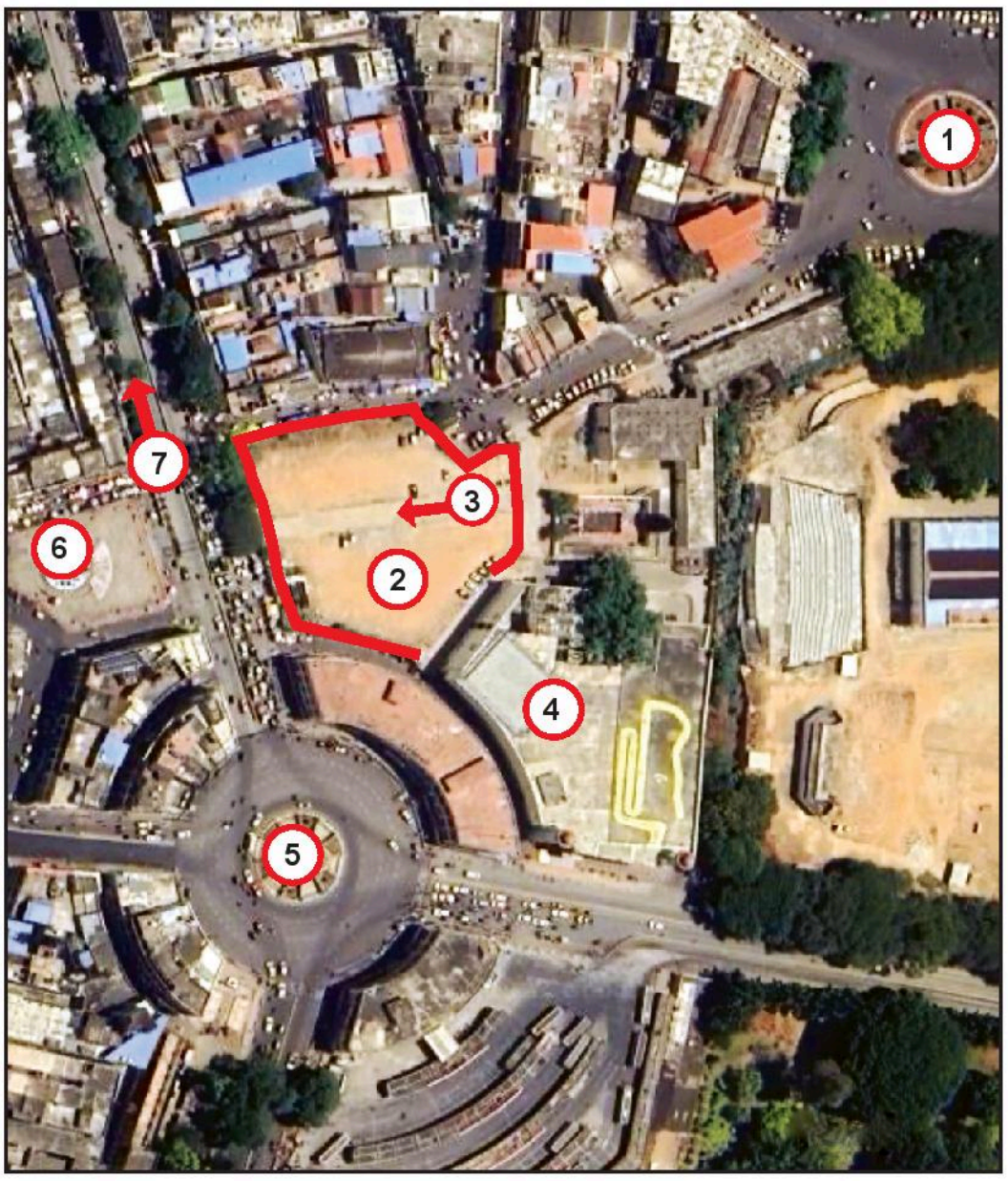
This is the best option available to the MCC — it would get about Rs. 200 crores from the auction and also property tax of over Rs. 5 crores every year that would be revised upwards periodically. **May be from the legal point MCC must auction it only for the specific purpose for which the Makkaji Chowk lands were acquired.**

Even otherwise, if the amount realised from the sale is deposited in the bank at the lowest rate of interest, the interest earned alone will be about Rs. 12 crores, which is more than the income of Rs. 3,01,50,000 per year generated by leasing it out to Maverick Holdings and Investment Pvt. Ltd., as mentioned above.

According to **B. Siddaraju,** former Deputy Mayor and the only Corporator, who has objected to the resolution, the proposal to lease the property as per the resolution passed by the MCC on 10.10.2005, probably is going to be a **financial disaster** to Mysore Mahanagara Palike.

He has also alleged that it has been done to favour the political bosses, in his complaint to the Principal Secretary, Urban Development Department, M.S. Building, Bangalore, submitted on 25.10.2005.

It may be mentioned that the matter relating to Makkaji Chowk is a 45-year-old itch, for the then Municipality and later the Corporation to clean up this dilapidated and rundown down-town area. Many stalwarts among politicians and bureaucrats tried to acquire the Makkaji Chowk land from its more than 155 shop owners and tenants in order to develop the area as a modern commercial complex with no success at all.



1. Gandhi Square, 2. Makkaji Chowk *(marked in red line),* ***3. Disputed Road running through Makkaji Chowk, 4. Garuda Shopping Mall, 5. K.R. Circle, 6. Dufferin Clock Tower, 7. Sayyaji Rao Road.***

According to **M. Shivakumar,** one of the Corporators, the proceedings for the requisition of shops in Makkaji Chowk was started in the year 1963 and in 1971, the properties were sought to be acquired by the MUDA on payment of compensation. From then on, the drama of going to the Court by certain persons like **owners, tenants and land developers holding Power of Attorney** started. And some even obtained Stay Orders.

Siddaraju, in his complaint to the Principal Secretary of Urban Development Department, has raised two pertinent points:

1. The land acquired by the MCC at Makkaji Chowk cannot be used for any other purpose other than for which it was acquired. According to the Corporation Commissioner, as submitted before the Council, the land was acquired for the purpose of constructing market building/ commercial complex and cinema halls.

2. The land so acquired for such avowed objectives cannot be alienated by giving it on lease, as in this case, or sold. In such an eventuality, it should be turned to the original owners.

As such, it cannot even auction that land, according to some advocates. **That means the MCC should itself take up the project for which the land was acquired and own it.** But going by the past record and knowing our MCC officers and engineers, it would be a financial disaster if the Corporation itself undertakes this job! There would be a long delay and another scam. **Do you remember the Mayura Complex near Ballal Circle and another complex opposite Ranjit theatre? Half-constructed buildings here stand as mute witness to our Corporation's incompetence, corruption and apathy.** And I do not know how many more such incomplete buildings are there in the city.

It seems that if the Government does not handle this case properly, it is going to land in the Courts where it will languish probably for another 45 years.

This is one more example to a show that development does not happen in our city because there is no political will and our politicians and bureaucrats have **their own contingency plan** (agenda). They seem to think that if the cost of development does not fit into **their contingency plan,** then the development project should be put on hold!

MCC's 'Pay and Park' proposal meets with stiff resistance

Devaraja Mohalla residents stage protest; Mysuru Rakshana Vedike to approach Court

Mysuru, June 12 (MK&BCT)- The pay and park system approved and re-floated by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Council has kicked up a row again and this time, voluntary organisations and residents have joined hands to oppose the move. They decried the MCC move to re-introduce the system that has met with severe opposition in the past.

The MCC Council on June 9 decided to introduce the system in the city's Central Business District (CBD) on a trial basis. It proposed to levy parking fees on D. Devaraj Urs Road, Ashoka Road, Sayyaji Rao Road, Vinoba Road, Dhanvantri Road, Sri Harsha Road and the Town Hall premises.

As per the Council decision, for two-wheelers, the initial parking fee for two hours is Rs. 10 and subsequently charged at Rs. 10 per hour. Similarly, for light motor vehicles like cars, the initial two-hour fee is Rs. 30, with an additional Rs. 10 for each subsequent hour.

Opposing the move, the Mysuru Rakshana Vedike held a meeting at the Bisilu Maramma Temple on D. Devaraj Urs Road yesterday and appealed to the MCC to reconsider its decision.

"Mysuru that has already been declared the cleanest city in India needs more toilets that are pay and use. We do not need the pay and park system. The MCC's grand plan of introducing clean and eco-friendly e-toilets has failed as all the e-toilets set up at various locations after spending crores of rupees have now been sent to scrap yards and the funds have gone down the drain," they said.

The Vedike has decided to protest in case the system is thrust upon the residents of Mysuru and if need be, it will approach the Court of law. The members pointed out that despite more than a decade, the MCC has failed to open the multi-level parking facility at the Town Hall premises.

"More than 600 vehicles can be parked in this multi-level parking facility and the parking problem on D. Devaraj Urs Road can permanently be addressed. Also, the cellar of the Ambedkar Bhavan near Devaraj Urs Road can also be used for parking. Moreover, the space in Gaadi Chowka can be utilised for parking and the shop owners can be asked to maintain the parking lot, the Vedike members suggested.

Mysuru Rakshana Vedike President My.Ka. Prem Kumar, Secretary Rakesh Bhat, Vice-President Kumar Gowda, Youth Wing President Gururaj Shetty, Deepak, Ravi and leaders R. Paramesh Gowda, Surendra, Devaraj Market Yuva Brigade President B. Sandeep, Srinivas Shetty, Kumar, Krishna Kumar and others attended the meeting.

MLA must instruct MCC to be people-friendly: Residents

Mysuru, June 12 (CN&BCT)- A group of residents from Devaraja Mohalla staged a protest yesterday condemning the MCC's pay and park proposal on city roads. Terming the decision 'unscientific', the residents staged a demonstration on D. Devaraj Urs Road.

Former Corporator Nagabhushan said that the MCC has decided on the proposal in a hurried manner without taking the residents into confidence. The decision will be a burden for Mysureans and the MCC must drop the decision immediately, he said.

He alleged that the MCC has ratified the decision without the permission of the MLA who is unaware of the development. "Residents of Lashkar Mohalla and Devaraja Mohalla will be seriously affected and the MCC has not taken the decision in public interest. Rather, the civic body has decided to favour the shop-keepers," Nagabhushan said.

If the pay and park system is introduced on Devaraj Urs Road, vehicle users will enter the lanes and by-lanes of Devaraja Mohalla and Lashkar Mohalla to park their vehicles in order to avoid paying the parking fee. They will park in front of houses and it will be a herculean task for the residents to move around with vehicles parked in front of their houses, the former Corporator reasoned.

He urged Chamaraja MLA K. Harishgowda to direct the MCC not to take anti-people decisions. "The MLA must instruct the MCC to take people-friendly decisions instead of favouring just a section of the people by being unpopular to a large section," he added.

Mathrubhumi Hitharakshana Samithi President Vinay Kumar, Gururaja Shetty, S.N. Rajesh, Ravichandra, Nithin, Hrithik Gowda, Kumar, Manju, Raju and others were present.

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TENNIS TALK

By V.N. Prasad

Indisputable GOAT Novak Djokovic lifts coveted 23rd Grand Slam Trophy

The indisputable GOAT (Greatest of All Times) Novak Djokovic yesterday lifted the coveted 23rd Grand Slam Trophy at Roland Garrows, Paris, at French Open 2023.

Before going into the Championship details and historical facts, I am constrained to recall the beautiful words Novak Djokovic spoke during the post match presentation ceremony. While congratulating the young Runner-Up Casper Ruud, Novak lauded Casper for being an extremely nice human being, non-argumentative on the court and a highly appreciated soul by all across the board. In short, Casper's upbringing was lauded — audible to the world. A grand gesture indeed. Later he addressed youngsters across the globe in sports and all walks of life to choose what one wants, dream where one wants to reach, work with single minded determination and dedication, build the dream with sustained efforts and reach the goals. In today's world, these words would/should enthuse all the youngsters to concentrate on achieving class through sustained efforts and not through flamboyance — that sadly occurred at The Oval on the same day — with our cricketers at the World Test Championship; a different story though.

Undoubtedly, greats like Daniil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Carlos Alcaraz, Casper Ruud etc. are highly competent in world tennis. But none is equivalent to the class of Novak Djokovic who has been consistent. In the 34 Grand Slam Finals, he has won 23 Titles with 68% success rate. He holds the records for the most hard court titles (13), hard court finals (19) and finals (34). His 10 titles at Australian Open is an all-time record. Djokovic is the only man in the Open Era to achieve a triple Career Grand Slam, and the only one to hold all four Grand Slam titles simultaneously across three different surfaces. He is also the only player to reach at least 7 men's Singles finals at each of the Grand Slam events. Only five players in history have won all four Grand Slams in the same year, and the last to do it was Steffi Graf in 1988. The only men to achieve the feat are Don Budge (in 1938) and Rod Laver (in 1962 and 1969).

Novak Djokovic celebrates with the trophy after winning his 23rd Grand Slam, the third French Open. In the finals, Djokovic outclassed the fourth-seed Ruud 7-6 (7-1), 6-3, 7-5 in just over three hours at Court Philippe-Chatrier. Djokovic's triumph took him past Rafael Nadal's tally of 22 to set a new record in men's Singles tennis.

The World No. 1 from Poland, Iga Swiatek, posing with the French Open-2023 winner's trophy on Saturday. Iga Swiatek battled past Czech's Karolina Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 to win her third French Open title on Saturday and become the first woman to successfully defend the Roland Garros title since 2007.

Unfortunately, tennis great Rafael Nadal had to drop out after sustaining a hip injury that has taken months for recovery. Rafa's absence and lack of players of equivalent competence enabled Novak to achieve the 23rd title easier; comparatively; not taking away anything from his grand standing.

I am sadly reminded of the Semi-Finals between the (No. 1) Carlos Alcaraz and Novak (No. 3). The 20 year young No. 1 was surely staring in the eyes of Novak to clinch the Semis when he developed cramps in the left thigh that shattered his dreams. Though the young Carlos braved completing the contest, writing was on the wall. Here too Novak was good enough to offer sympathies to the youngster while keeping his victory low key.

Simultaneously, I deem it my bounden duty to address the absolute class of women's performances too at the tournament. Since the beginning of the Open Era (1968), 31 different women have won the Singles title at French Open. Iga Swiatek on Saturday became one of only eight women who have won it at least thrice. She joined Serena Williams, Monica Seles, Steffi Graff and Justine Henin to have won 3 titles and more at Roland Garrows. The Polish is generally a 'Mercurial Character', swift in movements on and off the field and looks highly focused. Congratulations to Iga. However, Karolina Muchova rose extremely well to give a tough competition in the 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 encounter. Surely, this girl has a long way to go.

It is imminent for me to recall the absolute class displayed by Haddad Maia; Lebanese by origin and settled in Brazil; and Sabalenka; the Belarusian. Both were equally competent but very thin lines separated them from being the finalists.

Heartiest congratulations to all the players on their appearances. We wish them the best in 2024 at the RG. Thanks to all the boys and girls for the excellent entertainment▪

Mysuru lad excels in Tennis in West Vancouver

Mustafa

Mysuru, June 12- Mustafa Murtuza Raja emerged Doubles Champion and Singles Runner-up in the U-16 Tennis BC Nationals Selection Series held at Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver recently.

Mustafa defeated top seeded Owen in the Singles semi-finals but fell short in a closely contested 3 set finals with the second seeded player Gary. In the Doubles finals, Mustafa and Eric overcame the top-seeded pair of Gary and Scotty in straight sets.

This performance will help Mustafa qualify for the Outdoor Nationals later this year. Mustafa trains at the Tennis Centre in Vancouver. Mustafa, son of Murtuza Raja and Farida Raja, earlier trained at the Nagaraj Tennis Centre in Mysuru and attended Excel Public School in Mysuru.

Master athletes of Mysuru felicitated

International Athletes M. Yogendra, H.M. Sujatha and National Athlete S. Mahadev, were felicitated by MLA T.S. Srivatsa, during the valedictory of RNM & Vijayalakshmi Narayana Singh Memorial Road Races-2023 at Mysore University Oval Grounds in city recently. Master Athletes K. Subbashetty, B.K. Somashekar, B.S. Jayashree, M.P. Chandrashekar, K.N. Somashekar and retired Physical Director N.S. Subramanya were also felicitated on the occasion. MDMAA President Sumana Narasimhamurthy, MDMAA Secretary P.G. Sathyanarayana, Performa Proprietor D.E. Sangeetha, MDMAA Vice-President C.N. Ganesh, Dramatist Ramachandra, MDAA President S. Somashekar and MDAA Secretary B. Srikanth were present.

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- **Rajkamal Theatre** — Ph: 2423554
  Por Thozhil (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — Ph: 2520494
  Gadayuddha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — Mob: 99008-20093
  Darbar -2023 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Lido Theatre** — Ph: 2420885
  Darbar -2023 (K) - 4 Shows
- **Gayathri Theatre** — Ph: 2443568
  Melody Drama (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — Mob: 98454-14691
  Veeram (K) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — Ph: 2452958
  PS 2 (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — Ph: 2497199
  God Father (H) - 4 Shows
- **Uma Theatre** — Ph: 2520009
  Day and Someone (Te) - 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Spider Man (E)	(S-1)	10.40 am, 1.30 pm, 10 pm
Zara Hatke Zara Bachke (H)	(S-1)	4.15 pm
Daredevil Musthafa (K)	(S-1)	6.55 pm; (S-3) 10.30 am, 9.50 pm
Sthabdha (K)	(S-2)	10.40 am
Darbar -2023 (K)	(S-2)	1.15 pm
Matte Maduve (K)	(S-2)	4.10 pm
Gadar Ek Prem Katha (H)	(S-2)	6.15 pm
Melody Drama (K)	(S-2)	10.05 pm
Takkar (Ta)	(S-3)	1.35 pm, 4.20 pm
The Kerala Story (H)	(S-3)	7.05 pm
Transformers: Rise of Beasts (E)	(S-4)	11.05 am, 1.45 pm, 7.15, 9.55 pm
Fast X (E-3D)	(S-4)	4.25 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Daredevil Musthafa (K)	:	1.15 pm, 4 pm, 7.15 pm
The Kerala Story (H)	:	1.15 pm
Transformers: Rise of Beasts (E-3D)	:	1.30 pm, 4 pm 6.30 pm, 9 pm
Melody Drama (K)	:	4 pm, 6.45 pm
Darbar -2023 (K)	:	4.20 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Zara Hatke Zara Bachke (H)	:	10.25 am, 4.20 pm, 10.15 pm
Transformers: Rise of Beasts (E-3D)	:	10.50 am, 1.45 pm, 4.40 pm 7.35 pm, 10.30 pm
Transformers: Rise of Beasts (H-3D)	:	12.40 pm, 3.35 pm, 9.30 pm
Takkar (Ta)	:	11.35 am, 3.05 pm, 9.15 pm
Daredevil Musthafa (K)	:	11.45 am, 3.25 pm, 9.45 pm
The Kerala Story (H)	:	12.25 pm, 6.45 pm
Spider-man (E)	:	1.15 pm, 7.10 pm, 10.00 pm
Gadayuddha (K)	:	2.35 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	5.50 pm
2018 (Ma)	:	6.05 pm
Fast X (E-3D)	:	6.30 pm
Melody Drama (K)	:	7.00 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Transformers: Rise of Beasts (E-3D)	:	10.20 am, 1.15 pm, 4.10 pm 7.05 pm, 10 pm
Daredevil Musthafa (K)	:	11.55 am, 4.10 pm, 10.30 pm
Takkar (Te)	:	12 noon, 7.30 pm
Spider-man (E)	:	12.15 pm, 6.25 pm
Trailers Screening Show	:	3.00 pm
Fast X (E-3D)	:	3.25 pm
Zara Hatke Zara Bachke (H)	:	3.45 pm, 9.45 pm
Darbar -2023 (K)	:	6.35 pm
The Kerala Story (H)	:	9.30 pm

Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 Hockey

India beat Korea 2-1 to win maiden crown

Indian women's hockey team during the presentation ceremony in Kakamigahara, Japan, yesterday.

Kakamigahara, June 12- The Indian hockey team clinched the Women's Junior Asia Cup 2023 title in Kakamigahara, Japan, with a 2-1 win over the Republic of Korea in the final on Sunday.

This is the first time India have won the Women's Junior Asia Cup. India had already secured a spot in the FIH Women's Junior World Cup 2023 in Chile. Japan beat China 2-1 to become the third team to qualify for the World Cup scheduled this year.

For India, Annu (21') and Neelam (40') were on target while Seoyeon Park (24') scored the solitary goal for Korea.

Earlier this month, India also won the Men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament after beating arch-rivals Pakistan in the final.

EVENTS TODAY (JUNE 12)

- **District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru:** Screening of National Award-winning children movie 'Kishora,' MLA T.S. Srivatsa inaugurates, District Kannada Sahitya Bhavan, Vijayanagar 1st Stage, **6 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (JUNE 13)

- **Canara Bank, Financial Institutions, Railways, DRDO, Postal Department, HAL, Higher Education, MOHFW & Revenue (CBIC & CBDT):** Rozgar Mela: Mission Recruitment - 6th National Event, Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, graces the occasion; Knowledge Park Auditorium, AIISH Campus, Manasagangothri, **9 am.**
- **Builders' Association of India (BAI), Mysore Centre:** Month-long World Environment Month Celebration (WEMC) with the theme 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution,' A Day with Homemaker — Workshop on 'Use of eco-friendly home appliances and products,' Mysore Builders' Charitable Trust (MBCT) auditorium, Vishweshwaranagar, **10 am**. [Mob: 98453-29553 or 94491-32379]
- **Nritya Vidyapeetha:** Bharatanatyam programme, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, Hunsur Road, **5.30 pm.**

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob. : 7829999465

Transformers: Rise of Beasts (E-3D)	(S-1)	10.20 am, 4.10 pm 7.05 pm, 10.00 pm
	(S-4)	11.20 am, 6.05 pm, 9 pm
	(S-3)	1.15 pm
The Kerala Story (H)	(S-2)	10 am, 4.10 pm
Daredevil Musthafa (K)	(S-2)	12.50 pm, 7.10 pm
Takkar (Ta)	(S-3)	10.10 am, 7.20 pm
Melody Drama (K)	(S-3)	1.10 pm
Darbar - 2023 (K)	(S-3)	4.10 pm
Zara Hatke Zara Bachke (H)	(S-3)	10.20 pm
Fast X (3D-E)	(S-4)	2.15 pm
Spiderman (E)	(S-2)	10.30 pm
Trailer Screening Show	(S-4)	5.20 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob. : 9606976757

Daredevil Musthafa (K)	(S-1)	10.05 am, 4.05 pm
Zara Hatke Zara Bach Ke (H)	(S-1)	1.15 pm
The Kerala Story (H)	(S-1)	10.25 pm
Spiderman (E)	(S-1)	7.25 pm
Transformers: Rise of Beasts (E-3D)	(S-3)	9.45 am, 6.35 pm, 9.30 pm
Transformers: Rise of Beasts (E-3D) (with atmos)	(S-2)	10.50 am, 1.45 pm, 4.40 pm 7.35 pm, 10.30 pm
Takkar (Te)	(S-3)	12.35 pm; (S-4) 10.10 pm
Matte Maduve (K)	(S-4)	12 noon
Melody Drama (K)	(S-3)	3.35 pm
Darbar - 2023 (K)	(S-4)	7.00 pm
Gadayuddha (K)	(S-4)	3.45 pm
Trailers Screening Show	(S-4)	3.00 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15.

Bharatanatyam programme

Mysuru, June 12- Nritya Vidyapeetha - Academy of Classical Dance and Indian Arts, Mysuru, has organised an event titled 'Matru-Kanya,' a Bharatanatyam programme by Guru Vidu. C.N. Anitha and her daughter-disciple Jnanashri Kesari at Mini Theatre in Kalamandira premises on Hunsur Road in city tomorrow (June 13).

5.30 pm: Bharatanatyam by the disciples of Guru Dr. Padmashree, Kalanidhi School of Dance, Pandavapura.

6 pm: Bharatanatyam by the disciples of Guru Vidu. Ramya S. Raghavendra of Nataraja Natya Shale, Nanjangud.

6.30 pm: 'Matru-Kanya' Bharatanatyam recital by Guru Vidu. C.N. Anitha and her daughter Jnanashri Kesari.

They will be accompanied by Vidu. Ramya Rajesh on natuvanga, Nayana Nagaraj on vocal, Vid. Tumkur B. Shashishankar on mridanga and Vid. B. Bharath Raj on flute.

B. Madhu, Professor of Community Medicine, JSS Medical College and Deputy Dean (Research), JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (JSS AHER), Mysuru, will be the chief guest.

For details, contact Mob: 94483-32200.

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